Percentage of Land Area in the Country under the Forest Cover

195. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the percentage of land area in the country under the forest cover upto the end of 1991 ;

(b) the area depleted from the forest cover during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(c) the details of efforts being made to bring more land under forest cover and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) As per the third assessment of the forest cover just concluded, based on visual interpretation of landsat imageries pertaining to the period 1987—89, the actual forest cover is 19.49% of the total geographical area of the country.

(b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, carries out assessment of forest cover of the country on a two years cycle basis. As per the latest assessment, there has been a net increase in forest cover of the country by 56,000 hectares, thus registering an annual increase of 28,000 hectares.

(c) Following efforts are being made to bring more land under forest cover :

(a) A massive programme of afforestation including social and farm forestry, under the 20 Point Programme is under implementation in all the States and Union Territories.

(b) Government of India have also issued guidelines for Peoples' participation in management and development of degraded forests and their active involvement in afforestation programme. Afforestation to the tune of 17 million hactares has been done during 1952 to 1990.

Hazardous Industrial Units in Delhi

196. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3036 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1992 and state :

(a) whether each of the other units on whom Improvement Notices were served as those units did not comply with the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have since complied with the various regulations ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Of the identified 22 major accident hazard installations in Delhi, 13 units had complied with most of the provisions of the Factores Act, 1948, and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Of the remaining 9 units, 3 units have since partially complied with the regulations, one unit has been prosecuted while one has been registered only recently. The remaining 4 units have been asked to comply with regulations within the time-frame.

Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board

197. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govt.'s attention has been drawn to the Interview of the former Chairmaan, Central Pollution Control

Board, published in the weekend Ovserver of 7th March, 1992 ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons for which the services of the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board were terminated on 2nd December, 1991 without assigning any reason ;

(c) whether any chargesheet was given to the Chairman ;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether a new Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board has been appointed, if so, what are his qualifications and other particulars on the basis of which has been appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government reconstituted the Central Pollution Control Board in public interest and in view of the new policy on the abatement of pollution. The present Chairman is a very senior officer of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, who is also in-charge of the Ganga Project Directorate and Hazardous Substances Management Work.

Clearance of Power Projects

198. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister has recently stated that all the power projects held up for want of environmental clearance would be cleared in a month;

(b) if so, the details of power projects pending for environmental clearance ;

(c) since when each of the project is pending for environmental clearance ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure early clearance of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The Prime Minister stated in the conference of the Power Ministers held recently that he would, in a month, review the pending cases of power projects which are said to have been held up for want of environmental and forest clearance, so that final decision could be taken.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(d) Project authorities and the concerned agencies have been advised to furnish the requisite information to enable early appraisal of the projects.

Statement

Thermal Power Projects

S. No.	Name of the Project	Status
1	Godavari CCGT—A.P.	The project was rejected on 10-5-91 due to close proximity to Coringa Sanctuary and likely adverse effect on nesting habitat of Olive Ridley Turtles—Schedule-I. Species under Wildlife-Protection Act.
2	Kayamkulam STPP—Kerala	Cleared on 16-4-92, Stipulating conditions/safeguards.